

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C., 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

We write to you with deep concern regarding the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) non-compliance with Congressionally mandated reporting of United States property, equipment, and supplies left behind after the disastrous August withdrawal from Afghanistan. The DOD is over two-weeks late on its reporting deadline, totally disregarding Congressional accounting of taxpayer funded equipment abandoned by this Administration and left in possession of the Taliban.

Congress passed and the President signed into law the "Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act" (P.L. 117-43) on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This legislation required the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Service Secretaries and the Commander of the United States Central Command to submit to the Congressional defense committees *within 90 days*, "a report regarding the disposition of United States property, equipment, and supplies, including property, equipment, and supplies provided to the Afghanistan National Security Forces, which were destroyed, taken out of Afghanistan, or remain in Afghanistan in connection with the United States military withdrawal" as well as "information on the future plans of the Department of Defense regarding any such items." As you are likely aware, the 90-day deadline for this report came and went on December 29, 2021, without the required report from DOD.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley testified on September 29<sup>th</sup> before Congress regarding terrorist groups in Afghanistan that "the conditions could be set for the reconstitution of al Qaeda and/or ISIS ... It's a real possibility in the not too distant future, 6, 12, 18, 24, 36 months that kind of timeframe for reconstitution of al Qaeda or ISIS." It is with gravest concern that even after a three-month window to produce the required information, the DOD still has not given Congress an accurate accounting of United States equipment still in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan where terrorist groups are reconstituting. This lack of information prevents Congress from being able to accurately and effectively conduct oversight over the tens of billions of dollars of equipment invested in Afghanistan over the past 20 years and creates vulnerabilities in our national security.

While the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (P.L. 117-81) contains a similar 90-day reporting requirement, Congress should not have to wait until the NDAA's March 2022 deadline to receive this critical information concerning Afghanistan. That is why Congress required your Department to comply by December 29, 2021. We urge that you work with your Service Secretaries and General McKenzie to produce the required information for Congress immediately.

Sincerely,



Andy Barr



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



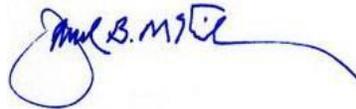
Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



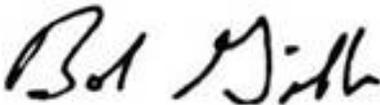
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
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Cliff Bentz  
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Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Young Kim  
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lauren Bt". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress